

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME U.S. POST OFFICES IN NEW YORK STATE -1858-1943 - THEMATIC
HISTORIC RESOURCES
United States Post Office, Glen Cove, Nassau County
AND/OR COMMON
Glen Cove Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2 Glen Cove Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Glen Cove

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New York

036

Nassau

059

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY****OWNERSHIP****STATUS****PRESENT USE**☐ DISTRICT☒ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECTNA ☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFICNA ☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Postal Service, Northeast Region, F.R.E.B.O.

STREET & NUMBER

90 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nassau County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

240 Old Country Road

CITY, TOWN

Mineola

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Postal Service Inventory

DATE

1984

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Glen Cove Post Office is located at 2 Glen Cove Street at the corner of Bridge Street in a complex of brick governmental buildings in the center of the city of Glen Cove, Nassau County, New York. The Glen Cove Town Hall is located across Bridge Street to the north; the firehouse and library are to the south. One- and two-story masonry commercial buildings predominate on the surrounding blocks. The post office site is modestly landscaped with a small park to the south and a parking lot to the west. The building retains its integrity to an extremely high degree on both the exterior and interior. This nomination includes one contributing building.

The Glen Cove Post Office is a relatively small, one-story, Flemish bond brick building with white marble trim. The focal point of the symmetrical front facade is the projecting entrance porch, which is articulated by three tall brick arches on the front elevation and a single arch on each of its faces. These arches are flanked by Doric pilasters of marble, each of which is ornamented by a caduceus (symbol of communication and, thus, of the mail) set just below the capital. The pilasters support a simple marble entablature that runs around the entire building. The porch is capped by a brick pediment with an oval limestone panel that is in the form of an eagle carved in relief. The post office is entered via two sets of steps that run parallel to the street and lead to a slightly bowed landing. The steps and landing have their original iron railing. The front doors (replaced in 1957) are set within a stone enframingent capped by a fanlight with an iron grille. An original lamp hangs from the porch ceiling above the entrance. To either side of the entrance are three windows with six-over-six double-hung wood sash set above brick panels. The windows have triangular-shaped marble lintels, each ornamented with a Neoclassical rosette and frets. Two of the windows are set within the porch and four are to either side of the porch. The marble entablature and a brick parapet run above the windows. The south elevation has two similar windows and a small oval window. A third sash window was converted to a door in 1957 when the present loading platform was erected. This partially enclosed platform is in the same location as the original covered platform, but is larger and projects from the facade. The north elevation centers on a three-window-wide swell front. It is flanked by single window bays. The west (rear elevation) is six-bays wide with a pedimented three-bay-wide section echoing that of the main facade.

The lobby is entered through a semicircular wooden vestibule with multi-paned windows and doors and a black marble floor. The lobby is covered with dark-stained American oak from floor to ceiling.

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National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Glen Cove Post Office, Glen Cove, New York,
Continuation sheet Nassau County

Item number 7

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The room is demarcated by fluted Doric pilasters between which are paneled expanses of woodwork. The plaster ceiling is coved and has a simple molding. Cylindrical glass and chrome-plated lamps crowned by brass eagles hang from the ceiling. The floor is buff-colored terrazzo with green marble border and baseboards. A pair of original circular wooden writing tables with black glass tops and carved pedestals is located in the lobby. The postmaster's office on the south side of the lobby is entered through a pedimented doorway. This office has plaster walls with wood trim. Most of the teller windows have been altered.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1932-33

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Delano & Aldrich

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Glen Cove Post Office is an outstanding example of small-scale Colonial Revival style public architecture in New York State and a superb example of the work of the prestigious early twentieth-century architectural firm, Delano and Aldrich. Built in 1932-33, the elegantly refined building exemplifies the sophisticated taste of this firm, among the leading exponents of the Colonial Revival style in the period. Although the Colonial Revival style had become the accepted idiom for most post offices (and other federal architecture) during the 1920s and 30s, this building-- based on the early nineteenth century Neoclassical style architecture of Charles Bulfinch-- is in sharp contrast to the simple and standardized designs that characterize the majority of post offices built in this period, one of the most prolific periods of post office construction in the nation's history. Rather than being built to a standard design produced by the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Glen Cove and a small group of other distinguished New York post offices were designed by well-known architectural firms under an amendment to the Public Buildings Act that allowed the Office of the Supervising Architect to hire outside consultants. Delano and Aldrich received the commission for the Glen Cove Post office based on their previous association with the Pratt family, among the most wealthy and prominent families in the town. Howard I. Pratt, the youngest of the Pratt children, donated the land on which the building sits and paid the architectural fees. Congresswoman Ruth Baker Pratt was instrumental in obtaining funding for the building. The post office was the first building erected as part of a comprehensive plan for Glen Cove's village center. This plan included the construction of a town hall, firehouse, and library, all of which were designed and built at a later date in a compatible, but less sophisticated, version of the Colonial Revival style. Retaining an outstanding level of integrity, the Glen Cove Post Office is one of the most architecturally distinguished small post offices in New York State.

Glen Cove is a small north shore Long Island community located on the Long Island Sound at the mouth of Hempstead Harbor. The area was settled by the British in the late seventeenth century. In its early years the community prospered through clandestine trade, with

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ships unloading goods in Glen Cove so as to avoid import taxes on such items as rum. In the late nineteenth century, Glen Cove's waterside location and its proximity to New York City and Brooklyn attracted wealthy industrialists and bankers, including the Morgans, Pratts, and Whitneys, who built mansions on large shoreline estates.

Glen Cove was particularly convenient to residents of Brooklyn, who could easily reach the town on the Long Island Railroad from its terminus on Flatbush Avenue. In the late nineteenth century, Brooklyn industrialist Charles Pratt purchased a large site in Glen Cove, naming his new estate "Dosoris." Charles Pratt was Brooklyn's wealthiest citizen. Pratt established his fortune by opening an oil refinery in Greenpoint where "Pratt's Astral Oil" was manufactured. This business was bought out by John D. Rockefeller and Pratt became a vice president of Standard Oil. At Dosoris, Pratt built a modest summer home and a mausoleum. His children built large, but unpretentious frame homes. After Pratt's death in 1891, the early homes were replaced by enormous mansions. The Pratts took an active interest in Glen Cove's affairs and were responsible for funding the construction of several public buildings, including a railroad station, library, fire house, school, and hospital.

The Glen Cove Post Office was authorized in 1931 largely due to the efforts of Ruth Baker Pratt, the wife of Charles Pratt's second son, John T. Pratt. Mrs. Pratt served as congresswoman from New York City's "silk stocking" district between 1928 and 1932. She was able to obtain an appropriation of \$160,000 for the post office. The land for the post office was donated by Harold and Harriet Pratt (Harriet Pratt was chairperson of the Glen Cove Planning Commission at the time). The building was the first structure erected as part of a comprehensive plan for Glen Cove's town center. The post office was later joined by a library, town hall, and fire house; these buildings are all compatible in style with the post office, if not as sophisticated in design.

Harold I. Pratt was also instrumental in hiring the prestigious architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich to design the new post office and he paid the architects fee. Delano and Aldrich was among the most prominent architectural firms in America during the first decades of the twentieth century. William Adams Delano (1871-1960) and Chester Holmes Aldrich (1871-1940) both studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, but they met while working in the office of Carrère and Hastings. Following the establishment of their partnership in 1903, Delano and Aldrich received many prestigious commissions, beginning with that for the Walters Gallery in Baltimore (1904-05). The firm is best known for its city and country houses designed for affluent New York families, including residences for John D. Rockefeller, Otto Kahn, Vincent Astor,

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Marshall J. Dodge, Willard Straight, Harry Winthrop Rogers, George F. Baker, William Sloane, and Percy Pyne. In 1919, Delano and Aldrich designed a home for Harold I. Pratt at 37 East 68th Street on the corner of Park Avenue (now the Council on Foreign Relations). It was due to this relationship with Harold Pratt that Delano and Aldrich were asked to design the Glen Cove Post Office. In addition to their residential work, Delano and Aldrich are also famous for their private clubs, most notably the Knickerbocker and Colony Clubs in New York City. Much of the firm's work is in the Colonial Revival style and they are generally thought of as among the most outstanding Colonial Revival practitioners of the early twentieth century.

The Glen Cove Post Office was one of the first post office buildings erected after public works programs were expanded in response to the extensive unemployment caused by the onset of the Great Depression. It was among 136 New York State post offices and post office extensions authorized under the 1931 amendment to the Public Buildings Act of 1926. The building was also one of the first in the state designed by a consulting architect and not by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. A 1930 amendment to the Public Buildings Act of 1926 permitted the Supervising Architect to hire outside consultants to design buildings. This measure was planned to alleviate unemployment among architects. The consulting architects had to work within the guidelines set by the Office of Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, which at that time was under the direction of Acting Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore. The detail of these buildings, including that at Glen Cove, is often of exceptional quality; however, in plan, they follow the traditional post office layout of a modestly sized public lobby entered through a vestibule, a postmaster's office, and a large workroom. Besides the Glen Cove building, other notable New York State post offices designed by consulting architects include those at Scarsdale (Schultze & Weaver, 1937-38), Hempstead (Tooker & Marsh, 1931-33), Jamaica (Cross & Cross, 1932-34), Patchogue (John V. Van Pelt, 1931-33), Oyster Bay (Bottomley, Wagner & White, 1935-36), and Garden City (Walker & Gillette, 1936).

The Glen Cove Post Office is an extremely refined Colonial Revival style structure and is an excellent example of Delano and Aldrich's use of the Colonial Revival idiom. Although it appears in American architecture as early as the 1870s, the Colonial Revival was popularized by McKim, Mead & White in the 1890s. McKim, Mead & White used rather bold and sculptural Colonial Revival forms, as can be seen on their Percy Pyne House at 680 Park Avenue (National Register listed) and on the Harvard Club (National Register listed). Delano and Aldrich used a more elegant and refined Colonial Revival vocabulary that was strongly influenced by the early nineteenth century Neoclassical or Federal style work of Charles Bulfinch. The design of the Glen Cove Post Office was inspired by Bulfinch's Lancaster Meetinghouse (1816-17) in Lancaster,

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Massachusetts. One of the most notable features of the church is its three-bay arcade porch with simple round-arched openings flanked by Doric pilasters which support a brick pediment. This feature was adapted by Delano and Aldrich for the entrance to their post office. In addition, the south front of the post office, facing onto Bridge Street, incorporates a swelled bay inspired by the bays on such houses as Boston's Third Harrison Gray Otis House (1806), designed by Bulfinch, and the Nathaniel Russell House (1809) in Charleston, South Carolina.

The interior of the post office is laid out on a utilitarian plan with a relatively small public lobby where postal business is transacted. The interior detail of the lobby is extremely elegant with beautiful carved woodwork that gives it the feeling of a subdued lounge in one of Delano and Aldrich's private clubs. Although the screenline has been altered somewhat, the lobby retains most of its original features including wood-paneled walls, semi-circular vestibule, customer tables and lighting fixtures.

The post office remains in superb condition. A significant work by a major architectural firm, it is the finest small post office in New York State.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See cover form and continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 611511610 451241210
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached site map

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NA CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE NA CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY See also continuation sheet

NAME / TITLE

Larry E. Gobrecht, National Register and Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION New York State Office of Parks,

DATE July 1986

Recreation and Historic Preservation, Field Services Bureau

STREET & NUMBER

Empire State Plaza, Agency Building One

TELEPHONE

(518) 474-0479

CITY OR TOWN

Albany

STATE

NY

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Darlington, Oscar G., Ph.D. Glimpses of Nassau County's History. Mineola, New York: Nassau County Trust Company, 1949.

Sanborn Map Company. Glen Cove. 1925, 1931, 1931 updated to 1947.

BREWSTER

ST.

BRIDGE

GLEN

COVE

AVE.

GLEN COVE INDUSTRIAL DEV. CORP.

UNITED STATES

POSTAL SERVICE

CITY OF GLEN COVE

NORTH

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

	DIST		DIST	
FIRE PROTECTION		PUBLIC PARKING		DRAINAGE
SANITARY				FIRE HYDRANT RENTAL
REFUSE & GARBAGE		SEWER		GARBAGE
REFUSE DISPOSAL		PARK		ESCALATOR
SEWAGE COLLECTION		IMPROVEMENT		WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
				COUNTY, COLLEGE, POLICE HQ.
		SIDEWALK		

CODE

United States Post Offices in New
York State -- 1858-1443 -- Thematic
Resources
Glen Cove, Nassau County, New York
2 Glen Cove Avenue

1" = 100'

Map #31-85-1

SEA CLIFF QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES

BAYVILLE



United States Post Offices in New
York State -- 1858-1943 -- Thematic
Resources
Glen Cove, Nassau County, New York
UTM Reference Points
Sea Cliff Quadrangle, 1:24000, Zone 18
615160/4524220

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